

SITUATION REPORT NO. 06
INCIDENT NO. 97-001
DATE: June 10, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flood - Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: Search and rescue workers on June 5 found the body of a man who drowned during a May 24 boating accident on Devils Lake. A second man also drowned; his body was recovered shortly after the accident.
3. DAMAGE: Dry conditions in the Devils Lake Basin are slowing the rise of the lake, prompting the National Weather Service to revise its predicted crest. A June 4 update calls for the lake to rise to a minimum of 1,443 feet by mid-July, one-half foot less than earlier predictions. The highest predicted crest remains at 1,444 feet. Forecasters attributed the revised forecast to warm temperatures, increased evaporation rates and below normal precipitation.

On June 10, the lake had risen to 1,442.17 feet, which is 1.17 feet above the previous recorded maximum elevation of 1,441 feet set in 1830.

Six Grahams Island families have evacuated their homes and have relocated to Shelters Grove, Minnewaukan and Devils Lake, the N.D. Parks and Recreation Department has reported. The park was closed for the summer on April 30 because of rising flood waters.

N.D. Highway Patrol troopers report that dust in construction zones is creating problems for motorists, often temporarily obscuring their vision.

In Nelson County, flood waters have isolated an Illinois Township resident's home.

Three Nelson County roads remain inundated, including two sections of County Road 23 and one section of County Road 4. Additional roads have been abandoned this year. County officials report 115 township roads and approximately 90 county roads have been damaged this year. In addition, approximately 75,000 acres of cropland are inundated.

In Ramsey County, two county roads have been closed because of flooding, the Cavalier-Ramsey County Line between Hampden and N.D. Highway 20, and the Towner-Ramsey County Line between U.S. Highway 281 and County Road 10. Ramsey County highway officials report approximately 550 county and township sites roads that have been damaged by flooding.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, June 5, 1997. Following is a summary of information reported during that meeting.

N.D. Department of Transportation

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) has awarded contracts on all grade raises for roads in the Devils Lake area that are either inundated or threatened by flood waters. Roads will be raised to 1,447.5 feet or higher. Construction is underway at the following locations: N.D. Highway 1, Stump Lake; N.D. Highway 20, Camp Grafton and Acorn Ridge; N.D. Highway 20, Mission Township and Black Tiger Bay; N.D. Highway 57, Fort Totten Bay; U.S. Highway 281, two miles south of Minnewaukan; and N.D. Highway 200.

During inclement weather, engineers for construction projects will alert the Devils Lake District Office to road conditions. Information will be submitted between 6:30 a.m. and 7:15 a.m., and the District Office staff will disseminate the road reports to the Law Enforcement Center and to area radio stations.

Vehicles are now traveling across the new bridge on N.D. Highway 19 at Six Mile Bay, although completion of dirt work, rip-rap and aggregate surfacing continues. The N.D. DOT has been studying options for removing the old bridge, which is nearly submerged in flood waters.

Officials for the agency are evaluating plans for either a bridge or grade raise at the N.D. Highway 57 at the Narrows crossing, which is inundated by flood waters.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department

Parks and Recreation Department staff reports that the boat ramp at Black Tiger Bay is functioning well for the public. A small amount of rip-rap will need to be added, and the grass parking area will be expanded.

Modern campground sites at Shelters Grove, which were flooded by spring runoff, have dried and are in use by campers. This year's attendance equals last year's usage at this time of year.

A State/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) inspection team has surveyed flood damages in Black Tiger Bay, Shelters Grove and Grahams Island. Parks and Recreation employees estimate that damages to Grahams Island could exceed \$1 million.

N.D. Game and Fish Department

The N.D. Game and Fish Department staff hopes to have six public boating access sites by mid-June.

Two docks are in place at Black Tiger Bay. The top of the boat ramp is at 1,448 feet.

At Creel Bay, construction has been completed on a triple wide concrete ramp and a dock. The ramp's top is at 1,450 feet. Parking and directional signs have been installed.

A boat ramp and dock are in place at Minnewaukan. The ramp is at 1,446 feet.

Within a week, a dock and a boat ramp with a top elevation of 1,445 feet will be installed at East Bay.

Game and Fish Department staff members are drafting an access and lease agreement for a ramp located on the western portion of Six Mile Bay. The ramp could be completed in June. On the eastern end of the bay, staff members are negotiating an access agreement with the landowner.

N.D. State Water Commission

The N.D. State Water Commission (SWC) has received 128 applications for its Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP) since January 1. To date, the SWC has reached agreements on 81 new sites capable of holding approximately 8,000 acre feet (AF) of water. With these new sites and 9,000 AF secured last year, total storage obtained through ASAP amounts to 17,000 AF on 147 sites. Work continues as the SWC

offers contracts on other new ASAP sites. The SWC anticipates that total 1997 storage will exceed 20,000 AF. This combined storage could reduce Devils Lake waters by two inches.

The SWC has issued two orders to private owners for removal of debris. The orders were issued under a new state law authorizing the state to remove manmade structures from waterways.

The SWC is developing a hazard identification map for Devils Lake with the assistance of the Lake Region Anglers Association, the Game and Fish Department and Parks and Recreation Department. The map lists the locations of submerged trees, brushes, roads, concrete slabs and other public safety hazards. Once completed, copies of the map will be distributed to the public.

The results of a sedimentation study show less than one foot of sediment has been deposited in the Jerusalem outlet, from Devils Lake to Stump Lake, and the Tolna Coulee outlet, from Stump Lake to the Sheyenne River. The study was conducted by the N.D. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the SWC and the Devils Lake Joint Water Resource Board.

N.D. National Guard

The old main gate on the north boundary of Camp Gilbert C. Grafton was opened after flood waters inundated N.D. Highways 20 and 57. That gate is accessible by Ramsey County Road 1 and Kraft Corral Road. The main gate also remains accessible by traveling on N.D. Highway 20 from Devils Lake.

Because of rising lake waters, the National Guard is losing access to a storage facility on the shoreline of the main lake. Rising lake waters have also affected a nearby roadway. Personnel are removing materials stored in the facility.

The National Guard conducted an aerial reconnaissance of the Devils Lake shore line on June 5 for local, state and federal officials, who evaluated debris concentrations and other hazards around the lake. Participants in the flight included representatives of the SWC, Lake Region Health Unit and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

North Central Planning Council

Staff members at the North Central Planning Council (NCPC) are working with Creel Township, Ramsey County and the city of Devils Lake to obtain funds to study the feasibility of a realignment of lake level protection for the city of Devils Lake.

To date, NCPC has received 81 applications for assistance with building dikes and rerouting sewer system lines. Of those, 65 have been approved for funding. The majority of the 65 applicants have completed work to their dikes or sewer systems, while the remaining applicants have projects in progress or are in the bidding process.

The NCPC staff has applied to the Office of Intergovernmental Assistance for a \$30,000 grant for the dike and sewer assistance project. NCPC last year received a \$160,000 grant, \$60,000 of which has been used.

N.D. Highway Patrol

Troopers for the N.D. Highway Patrol continue monitoring traffic to ensure it moves safely through construction zones in the Devils Lake area. In particular, troopers have increased patrol along N.D. Highway 19. Although traffic has been heavy, no accidents had occurred to date.

Nelson County Emergency Management

Stump Lake Park officials are trying to obtain funding from the Red River Planning Council for a fire hydrant that needs to be relocated and a well that needs to be capped.

Ramsey County Emergency Management

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assistance has been requested to evaluate the viability of realigning lake level protection for the city of Devils Lake. A proposed realignment would protect 200 homes in the Eagle

Bend Estates area, telephone, sewage and water systems, a county road, and a golf course.

Removal of structures from flooded or flood-threatened areas continues in the Devils Lake area. To date, 84 structures have been moved, and owners of 15 others are making plans to move their structures. In addition, seven structures have been destroyed, and seven others have been burned.

The Ramsey County emergency manager will receive assistance with public information work from a FEMA staff member, who will start work in Devils Lake on June 11.

Functional coordinators identified in the County Emergency Operations Plan staff will participate in weekly coordination activities.

As Devils Lake rises above record levels, Ramsey County Rural Utility System continues to sustain substantial damages. As of May, the utility has lost 142 accounts and 33 lift stations. Seventy-five accounts have lost sewer service since January 1.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has 10 projects underway in the Devils Lake Basin, including Stages One and Two of a \$7 million effort to elevate lake level protection for the city of Devils Lake to 1,450 feet MSL. Projects are as follows:
 1. Stage One, City of Devils Lake Levee Raise: Stage One of the city of Devils Lake's levee raise is approximately 60 percent complete. The levee borders western portions of the city. The USACE coordinated road and levee construction plans so that N.D. Highway 19 and the levee meet at 1,450 feet. For the next five weeks, Airport Road, which runs between N.D. Highway 19 and U.S. Highway 2, will remain closed while work continues on the levee. The targeted completion date remains September 21, 1997.
 2. Stage Two, City of Devils Lake Levee Raise: Engineers continue redesign work on Stage Two to ensure the levee can accommodate higher lake elevations. The project borders southern and eastern portions of the city. Work has begun on one portion of the Stage Two levee, where crews are pumping water and placing impervious fill to build the levee. The construction site is east of N.D. Highway 57-20 and north of Stromme Road. The completion date of October 30 may be extended based on the revised scope of work.
 3. Stromme Road, east of N.D. Highway 57: A contractor has completed construction of an emergency levee built to an elevation of 1,446 feet, including its erosion protection. A "haul road," used for transporting materials, has been restored and graveled. While the levee protects homes, businesses and infrastructure north of Stromme Road, it is also used as a coffer dam to allow for construction of Stage Two of the Devils Lake levee system.
 4. Stromme Road, west of N.D. Highway 57: Work on an emergency levee built to 1,446 feet has been completed. The contractor will install erosion protection. This levee also is used as a cofferdam to allow for Stage Two construction.
 5. Ramsey County Rural Utility System: Work is underway to raise two lift stations operated by the utility system. The USACE has already raised three lift stations and access roads to 1,446 feet.
 6. Spirit Lake Tribe: Tribal officials continue working with the St. Paul District of the USACE on obtaining technical assistance in evaluating potential measures to protect the city of St. Michael from flood waters. The St. Paul District Office and an architectural and engineering firm are providing technical assistance on an as-needed basis.
 7. City of Crary: A survey designed to provide topographical information in and around the city of Crary should be complete by the second week of June.
 8. City of Churchs Ferry: Work on a one-mile portion of an emergency levee is 90 percent complete. Remaining work includes restoration of the borrow pit and the "haul road." The levee is located in the eastern section of the city.

9. Devils Lake East End: Construction began May 31 on an emergency levee that begins east of the city's storm retention ponds and extends east. This levee will be constructed to 1,447 feet and have erosion protection in areas that are subject to wave action. On-site coordination meetings have been held with the city, property owners, contractor and USACE.
10. Devils Lake East Ditch: At East Ditch, lake water has backed up to 14th Street in Devils Lake, threatening nearby homes and city lift stations. Construction workers are building a cofferdam and are plugging East Ditch. Their work also includes construction of temporary pump platforms for two USACE Crisafulli pumps. The city has already pumped water from East Ditch over the cofferdam.

The USACE has reminded contractors to be aware of motorists and bicyclists traveling near construction areas. According to their contracts with the USACE, the contractors are providing water to maintain dust control.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held June 19, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. State Flood Coordination Center meetings are currently scheduled every month.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Douglas C. Friez, State Director